GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:397
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
ELECTION IN KASHMIR
ALE NARENDRA;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding Hizbul threat for violence in election in Kashmir appearing in the `Hindustan` dated June 27, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) the security arrangements made by the Government for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir keeping in view the increasing terrorist activities in the country especially in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) whether the armed forces have provided intelligence inputs that the ensuing elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be violent;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the complete details of the arrangements proposed to be made by the Government for peaceful conduct of the elections in J&K?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(f): Yes, Sir. Government is aware of the intention of various terrorist outfits and their mentors across the border to disrupt the election to Jammu & Kashmir Assembly through violence and intimidation of masses and political leaders. However, the Government is determined to conduct free, fair and credible elections to the state assembly at any cost. The State Government has already been advised to provide security cover to leaders of various political parties commensurate with the threat perception in each case. Further, the State Government has been asked to address the security concerns of the common people as well as leaders of political parties to encourage them to interact freely and at the same time to undertake sustained and focussed demonstrative antiterrorists strikes against the terrorists and other hardcore pro-Pak fundamentalists to blunt their capabilities to disrupt the election process. The Central Government would make every effort to provide additional Central Para Military Forces despite constraints and demands from elsewhere for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the elections.